

THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

3-4 June, Cavtat

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to participate in the Third meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in Cavtat.

First of all we would like to express the thanks to the Government of the Republic of Croatia as well as United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for the organisation of this important event.

Lithuania is a small country in Eastern Europe bordering Poland, Latvia, Belarus and the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. Good contacts and cooperation with neighbours in the field of Environmental Impact Assessment is of high importance to avoid negative transboundary environmental impacts.

On 11 January, 2001 Lithuania acceded to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. We believe that the Espoo convention will strengthen the cooperation with our neighbouring countries.

Environmental Impact Assessment is one of the most significant prevention methods used in the environmental protection in Lithuania.

Process of amending the Environmental Impact Assessment legislation is completed in the year 2000. A new Environmental Impact Assessment Law was adopted by Parliament of Lithuania on 18 April, 2000. The law fully meets the requirements of the EU Directives and Conventions. Requirements of Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context are also taken into account. In relation to the directive on free access to the information on the environment, all requirements were incorporated into Environmental Impact Assessment law. This law lays down a basis for Environmental Impact Assessment process in our country.

We would like to tell you a hot news. The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Poland on implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact assessment in a Transboundary Context was signed on 27 May of this year, in Warsaw.

The Intergovernmental agreement between Lithuania and Latvia on cooperation in the field of environmental Protection is signed and we expecting the acceleration of drafting and signing of bilateral agreement on EIA in a Transboundary Context between Lithuania and Latvia.

Lithuania has initiated preparation of the draft bilateral agreements on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context between Lithuania and Byelorussia and Lithuania and Russian Federation.

We would like to express the hope that we will able to make Espoo convention as really working and creating good contacts between countries.

Thank you for your attention.